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## GOVERNMENTAL ACTS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS USSR

The Soviet government issues and controls the execution of decrees (postanovleniya) and Spiers (resporyanteritys) which are binding within the entire territory of the state. Both the executive and administrative functions of government find their expression in these acts.

Decrees are considered to be the most important governmental acts. Issued in fulfillment of the law, they apply the general legal norms to particular cases without creating new norms, Examples will be found in the decrees of the Council of Ministers USBS which deal with appointments of higher officials, awarding military ranks to the high commanding staff of the Soviet Army etc.

Government decrees are published under two dignatured; that of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers or his first deputy, and that of the Secretary of the Council of Ministers.

Less important governmental acts of an executive and administrative character are designated as orders and are published under the signature of one of the deputies of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Until the end of 1942 the government published all its acts under the titlo "decrees." Only toward the end of 1942 did the official government publication of the IEER establish two independent divisions and regin issuing decrees independently of orders.

Government decrees ani orders have a greater legal force than the acts or other agencies of administration. Control over the legality of governmental acts is exercised by the Supreme Soviet and its Presidian.

Decrees issued jointly by the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of all the All-Union Communist Farty (Bolshevik) occupy a special place among governmental ects. The most important accounts and political questions are regulated by these decrees, in which Party directives and governmental acts coalesce.

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